Find Yourself (but not too many others)

Central Otago

Visitor Guide & Map

centralotagonz.com

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About this map

We've designed this map to help you find all the best places and things to do in Central Otago. Whether it's enjoying a leisurely road trip, taking time to reconnect with friends and family on one of our stunning cycle trails or on a walk through early goldmining areas; remembering what summer fruits used to taste like; or finding out what great ales and award winning wines should taste like, this map is designed to help you find all this and more.

And, if you still haven't found what you're looking for, there are special cycle maps, wine maps, walking maps, arts trail maps and 4WD guides available. Visit our website centralotagonz.com for more ideas and extra information or pop into our visitor information centres where you'll meet passionate locals who will point you in the right direction.

Enjoy our World of Difference!

Clyde Lookout
Photo: Todd Sisso

Experience the real Central

Every place has 'must do' experiences, sometimes quirky, sometimes quaint but always the stuff that great holiday memories are made of. Here are our top 12 (we were going to suggest 10 but we couldn't agree on what to drop).

Not that we're boasting – four of NZ's Great Cycle Rides are right here in Central Otago. Not just the original great ride, but three others and more to come. Pedal your way through our landscapes – lycra optional.

There's no better place than Central Otago to taste Central Otago wines. Spend quality time with your taste buds and take a wine tour.

Unwind at a different pace here. Take the back seat, or take the wheel, the choice is yours at Highlands.

Throw some stones – of the curling kind. Naseby's indoor curling rink gives you the chance to try curling all year round.

See it all from on high. Cromwell and Alexandra have scenic and charter flights and even hang gliding available.

A table for two, or picnic by the lake? Eat your way through the region savouring the local flavours from talented chefs. Pick your own fruit and call in to one of the local markets to meet our artisan producers.

Stargazing Heaven! Famous for our inspiring big blue skies, our dark skies are worth observing too. Step outside after dark and look up.

Uncover a history rich in gold. Our heritage towns and country pubs continue to provide a warm welcome. If you strike it lucky, the locals might let you in on where there's more gold to be found – but not necessarily of the mineral kind!

Take a hike and take in the views. Most of our walks reward you with spectacular vistas and have their own story to tell. Pick up a map from a visitor information centre and ask the team about their local favourite!

Eventful Central – time your visit with one of many great events and annual festivals for: blossoms, cherries, craft beer, wine and fashion. Active holidays are catered for with numerous cycling and running events. See centralotagonz.com/events for the full calendar.

Slow down, relax and enjoy a spectacular road trip. Whatever direction you're heading, you'll be blown away by stunning scenery and a warm welcome when you stop in any of our small towns. Allow time to explore, take rewarding detours and learn the stories of travellers' past.

There's an art to exploring Central Otago. With numerous studios and galleries throughout the region you can easily spend a day enjoying the creativity and craftsmanship that this place inspires. Be prepared to seize the moment and capture some images of your own.

Lake Dunstan Trail
Photo: Will Nelson

CENTRAL OTAGO
A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE

Find out more

visit us at **centralotagonz.com**

centralotagonz

While you're here hashtag your images with **#centralotagonz** and link to **@centralotagonz**

SITE call in to our Central Otago i-SITES
P: +64 3 262 7999 E: visitorcentre@codc.govt.nz

tiaki

BE PREPARED | DRIVE CAREFULLY | KEEP NZ CLEAN | PROTECT NATURE | SHOW RESPECT

TIAKINEWZEALAND.COM | #TIAKIPROMISE

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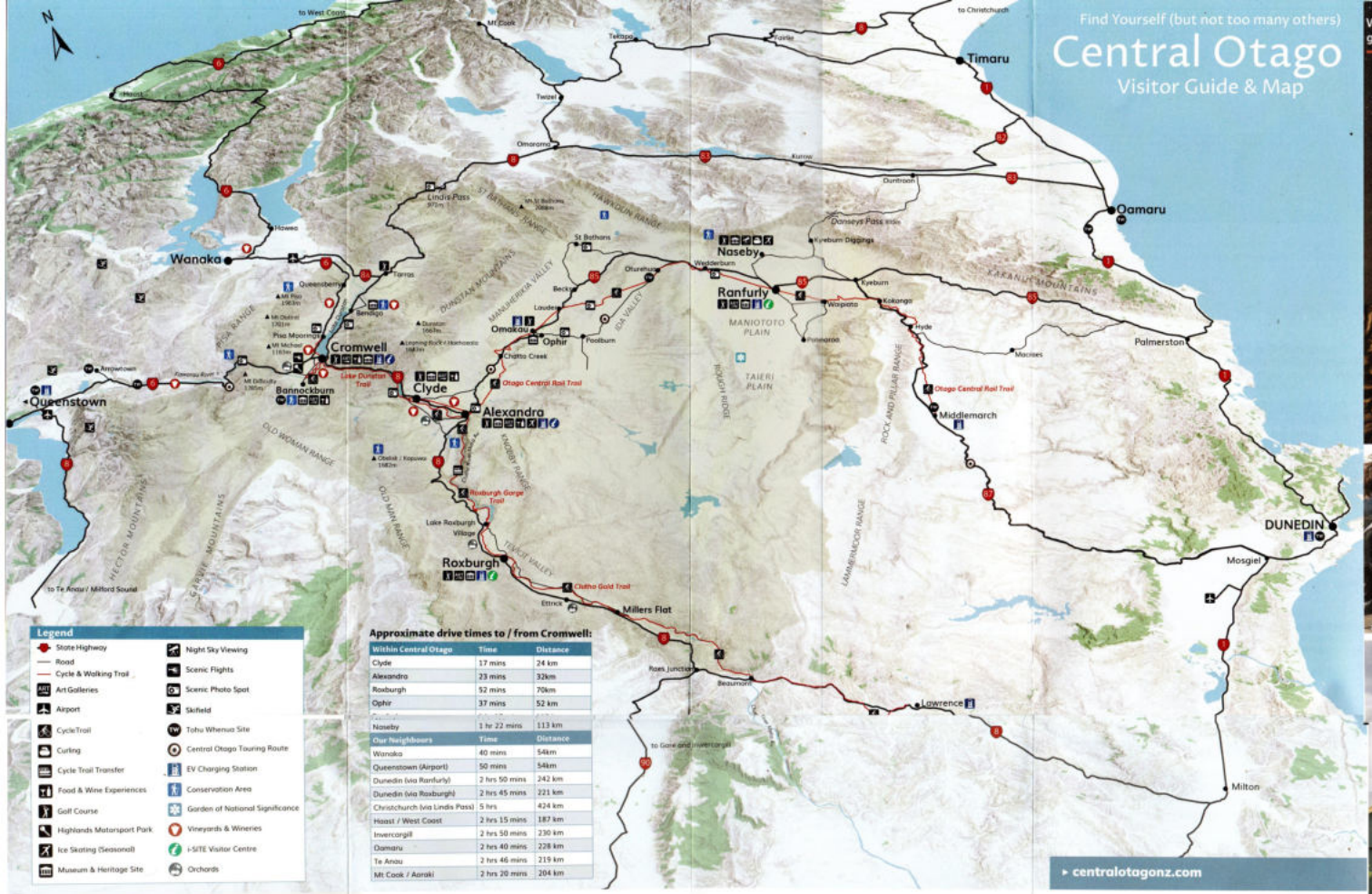

Legend

- State Highway
- Road
- Cycle & Walking Trail
- Art Galleries
- Airport
- CycleTrail
- Curling
- Cycle Trail Transfer
- Food & Wine Experiences
- Golf Course
- Highlands Motorsport Park
- Ice Skating (Seasonal)
- Museum & Heritage Site
- Night Sky Viewing
- Scenic Flights
- Scenic Photo Spot
- Skifield
- Tohu Whenua Site
- Central Otago Touring Route
- EV Charging Station
- Conservation Area
- Garden of National Significance
- Vineyards & Wineries
- i-SITE Visitor Centre
- Orchards

Approximate drive times to / from Cromwell:

Within Central Otago	Time	Distance
Clyde	17 mins	24 km
Alexandra	23 mins	32km
Roxburgh	52 mins	70km
Ophir	37 mins	52 km
Naseby	1 hr 22 mins	113 km
Our Neighbours	**Time**	**Distance**
Wanaka	40 mins	54km
Queenstown (Airport)	50 mins	54km
Dunedin (via Ranfurly)	2 hrs 50 mins	242 km
Dunedin (via Roxburgh)	2 hrs 45 mins	221 km
Christchurch (via Lindis Pass)	5 hrs	424 km
Haast / West Coast	2 hrs 15 mins	187 km
Invercargill	2 hrs 50 mins	230 km
Oamaru	2 hrs 40 mins	228 km
Te Anau	2 hrs 46 mins	219 km
Mt Cook / Aoraki	2 hrs 20 mins	204 km

▸ centralotagonz.com

Our Values

There are few places in the world that will leave you with a lasting sense of difference. Central Otago is one of them.

From its landscapes, seasons, people, heritage, produce and experiences, moment by moment it will quietly reveal its many differences to you.

The people of Central Otago share a set of values that are designed to protect all of those things that make our region so distinctive.

Values like respecting others, learning from the past, protecting our heritage and preserving the environment. Some people might think that these values are a bit old fashioned, but we believe that living by them will shape a better future in the same way that they have shaped our past.

These values underpin the plans that Central Otago has for the development of the region's visitor economy and are embodied in the region's 'A World of Difference' brand mark.

CENTRAL OTAGO
A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE

A solitary cloud is whisked upwards against a vast deep blue sky. A native falcon — the Karearea — soars high above the golden contoured landscape of Central Otago.

In symbolic terms, the Karearea is associated with a noble-natured people, strength, bravery, ingenuity and high spirits — evoking freedom and pride.

There are many stories that stitch this place together, from high country history to artisan food, fashion and wine.

Be inspired at centralotagonz.com/our-stories

Accommodation – be our guest

Central Otago offers a broad choice of accommodation from boutique B & Bs and intimate lodge-style accommodation, to vineyard and farm cottages, country pubs, hotels and motels, backpackers and campsites. As a rule of thumb the larger the town the wider the choice of accommodation you will find.

Summer into autumn is a busy time in Central Otago so it pays to book well in advance. You'll find further details about the region's accommodation options on our website.

Camping – be responsible

Generations of families and friends come every year to enjoy their traditional camping holidays at Central Otago's holiday parks and camping grounds.

For the most up-to-date information and responsible camping guidelines visit centralotagonz.com/camping or call in to a visitor information centre.

Tohu Whenua

The Tohu Whenua programme forms a network of Aotearoa New Zealand's most treasured heritage places that visitors of all ages can enjoy.

Hayes Engineering at Oturehua, the Otago Central Rail Trail and the Bannockburn Sluicings are sites chosen as places that offer some of New Zealand's best heritage experiences.

Flying in or out

We are spoilt for choice in Central Otago with three airports all in close proximity. The closest airport is Queenstown which is a scenic 50 minute drive from Cromwell. Dunedin is a 2.5 hour drive and Christchurch 5 hours.

On arrival, rent a vehicle to give yourself the freedom to explore or catch a bus or shuttle. Uber hasn't established itself in Central Otago yet, but there are limited taxi services, tour providers and courtesy shuttles. These have the added benefit of local drivers to share a few tips and tales.

Driving to or from

We're not called Central Otago for nothing. We are so central that you can arrive by road from any direction – north, south, east or west. You will travel through some dramatically different and jaw-droppingly beautiful landscapes whichever route you take.

In rural areas many roads are unsealed gravel, so if your journey takes you down one – slow down and take extra care.

Driving conditions are great for most of the year, but winter weather can be extreme on some of our roads. Please stay aware, ask for advice and drive to the conditions. Being ice or snow bound can be the perfect excuse to relax beside a roaring wood fire and stay cosy while you wait for conditions to improve.

Services and conveniences

In Cromwell and Alexandra you will find the full range of retail and essential services that you'd expect to find outside the big city. These include cafés, restaurants, supermarkets, fuel stations, public toilets, waste and transfer stations, medical centres, police, pharmacies, postal services, banks and a range of retail shops.

Our smaller towns will generally have ATMs, general stores and grocery shops, fuel, public toilets and some smaller retail options.

Wi-fi internet access is available and offered free in some towns and locations.

In an emergency dial 111 for police, fire or ambulance. Should you need medical treatment contact the nearest medical centre in the first instance.

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Lake Dunstan Trail
Photo: Ross MacKay

Poolburn Reservoir
Photo: Light Source Creatives

Four great cycle rides

All our bike trails will take your breath away. Even if you're a serious cyclist. No matter how hard you're pedalling, it's hard to ignore the spectacular scenery. Our four main cycle trails are amongst the best in the country, with over 300kms of inter-connected off-road routes. And those bluffs and peaks aren't just a scenic backdrop – we have plenty of testing mountain bike trails too.

Home to New Zealand's Original Great Ride – the Otago Central Rail Trail, Roxburgh Gorge, Clutha Gold and the Lake Dunstan Trail, there's sure to be a trail here to 'spin your wheels'. There are options for short trips to multi day rides, guided, supported or on your own. Local operators will put together a holiday on a bike to suit the comfort level, time and distance that works for you.

Fast or slow, one thing's for sure – you'll wish you were staying longer.

The need for speed – two wheels or four

If you are into a bit of downhill single track mountain biking, heli-biking, road cycling at race pace, unleashing your competitive spirit go-karting or enjoying the exhilaration of fast laps in a high performance racing car, Central Otago has tracks for all. You can even hire your own Harley Davidson or trail bike to enjoy some of the best motorcycling roads in New Zealand.

If off-roading is more your style, ask about some of the region's accessible 4WD tracks. Keep in mind that even if you're a pro SUV driver in the city, there are some slightly different challenges here.

Take a hike and take in the views

Wellness experts say that walking is good for your soul, so be sure to make time for some of our favourite trails while you're here.

Think moonscape for the Bannockburn Sluicings track through historic gold workings with expansive views over vineyards and orchards to Lake Dunstan and beyond.

Walk over the Shaky Bridge in Alexandra and climb the hill to stand beside the 11 metre high clock and be rewarded by spectacular vistas overlooking the town.

Other popular local walks include the track alongside the Clutha / Mata-Au River between Clyde and Alexandra, trails along the shorelines of Lake Dunstan at Cromwell and the 45th Parallel track to the top of the iconic Sugar Loaf with stunning views over Lake Dunstan.

For more information and maps call in to a Visitor Information Centre.

Picture perfect

It's been said that driving through Central Otago is like viewing a series of paintings. Central Otago is a magnet for talented and creative people – many of whom have works on display in the galleries, studios and museums that make up the Central Otago Arts Trail. Check out artstrail.co.nz for maps and trail guide to plan your outing.

Small towns - Big history

Looking at the old buildings around here, you could be forgiven for thinking our towns are stuck in the past. But, they're actually way ahead of their time. Historic banks, halls and stables have been repurposed, redesigned and refurbished to suit the needs of today.

Cromwell Heritage Precinct, Clyde, Naseby, St Bathans and Ophir are great places to see heritage buildings now used as cafès, bars, gift shops and galleries along with boutique accommodation.

The search for gold significantly changed landscapes in places like Bendigo, Bannockburn and Earnscleugh. This has been mellowed by picturesque vineyards, but relics of the past are still to be found if you know where to look. Local museums are great places to find out more about the events and people that shaped the Central Otago of today.

Golf - on the ball

Despite some Scottish heritage you won't find a St Andrews here. What you will find is the most inland links course in New Zealand and multiple choices of quality designed greens and fairways on which to play a round of golf (or two). The bounce of the ball on rocky fairways presents a distinctive challenge.

Feel totally insignificant.
In the best possible way.

Water sports - fresh or frozen

Power boat, jetski, kayak, paddle board, water ski, sail, fish or swim, our lakes and rivers offer plenty of choice to enjoy watersports. In fact, some boats even have bike racks on board to service the cycle trails alongside our waterways.

If you want to make your pick of ski fields depending on the conditions of the day, Central Otago is a great place to base yourself. Four of New Zealand's top ski fields, Coronet Peak, Remarkables, Treble Cone and Cardrona, plus the Snow Farm are all within an easy hour's drive.

Photo: Miles Holden

The ice-sport of curling is enjoyed year-round indoors at Naseby. In winter it's great family fun to ice-skate on outdoor rinks in Alexandra and in Naseby, or try the natural ice-luge in Naseby when conditions allow.

Night sky - watch this space

Central Otago's big blue skies by day become incredible dark skies by night. Naseby residents know this for a fact – they've been taking scientific readings and their night skies are up there with the best.

It's hard to say Central Otago
without adding pinot noir.

The Cloudy Bay Shed, Cromwell
Photo: Cloudy Bay

World-class wine

It takes a particular type of character to thrive in our extreme climate. The good news is, that character is the pinot noir grape. Although Central Otago is best known for pinot noir, don't deny your tastebuds the other wine styles made here, there's always a new vintage to enjoy. From a challenging environment this region produces some of the world's finest wines, and while you can find them in top bars and restaurants around the world, right here is where they taste best.

Whether at an event, on a guided wine tour or self exploring the different sub-regions around Bannockburn, Cromwell, Alexandra and Clyde, the range of cellar doors and tasting rooms offer choices for all. If you like to fit in exercise with your wine tasting, the Four Barrels walking wine trail in Cromwell or the Pedal for Pinot trail between Clyde and Alexandra are popular options.

Our restaurants also feature local wines to complement their menus. If your visit is timed during the annual Eat.Taste.Central celebrations, look out for special menu items, food matches and unique events.

Seasonal fare

Tasting a region is as important as seeing one. Discovering the flavours of Central Otago means building new memories of what food should really taste like. Our food and wine scene begins with local orchardists, artisan producers, winemakers, brewers and farmers working to achieve the finest of flavours in their product. Local chefs then celebrate these ingredients on their menus for everyone to enjoy, or you can purchase direct from the grower to enjoy later.

Dine al-fresco with stunning views and vividly coloured backdrops in summer and autumn or cosy up in front of a fire during the chilly winter months. In spring look out for menu items and events that are part of the annual Eat.Taste.Central event.

Take a road trip

Fuel or power up the car, sort your favourite playlist, wind down the windows and hit the road. The Central Otago Touring Route is just one option for exploring the network of scenic roads and towns throughout Central Otago. You'll find something new around every corner. Flat topped mountains, wide valley floors, crystal clear lakes, fast flowing rivers, rocky outcrops and tussock covered hills, all set under Central Otago's vast skies.

Pack a picnic lunch with local delicacies (and wine of course), find a scenic spot in the hills, beside a lake or river to relax and take in the view. Or dine at one of the many country pubs, restaurants or cafés that love to feature the region's local produce, craft beers and wines on their menus.